

FORT UNION TRADING POST (NPS)

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, Buford vicinity

For four decades, from 1828 to 1867, this was the principal fur trading depot in the upper Missouri River region. Fort Union was the center of a vast trading empire that exchanged goods for hides with the Assiniboin, Crow, Blackfeet, Cree, Ojibwa (Chippewa), Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara tribes. The palisaded fort, measuring some 240 by 220 feet, was also the most solidly constructed post on the Missouri. During most of its existence, the American Fur Company operated it. The fort was dismantled in 1867, and its timbers used to enlarge the nearby army post of Fort Buford.